

SF Railyards Working Group (RWG)



San Francisco
Planning

December 12 2023

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the **unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone** who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.



Meeting Purpose

1. Provide updates on PBC Caltrain efforts (informational, 10 min)
2. Gather group input on Neighborhood Mapping + Potential Opportunities (explorative, 20 min)
3. Provide overview of Planning Context “Dashboard” (informational, 5-7 min)

Agenda

Opening 10 min

Welcome and settling-in

Check-in: agenda and updates:

- Community updates
- Related projects and efforts

Content 40 min

1 Preliminary Business Case Caltrain efforts: update (10 min)

Informational item, clarifying questions

2 Neighborhood Mapping + Potential Public Realm Opportunities (20 min)

Presentation + group discussion

3 Context “dashboard” overview (5-7 min)

Informational item, asynchronous review

Closing 10 min

Group action items & activities

Project team next steps

An aerial, grayscale photograph of San Francisco, California. The image shows the city's dense urban landscape, including the San Francisco skyline with prominent skyscrapers like the Transamerica Pyramid on the left. The city extends to the waterfront, where the San Francisco Bay is visible. The Bay Bridge is seen in the distance, spanning the water. In the foreground, a major thoroughfare with multiple lanes and a central transit corridor with tracks runs through the city. The overall scene is a wide-angle, high-altitude view of the city.

Community Updates

(RWG)

Community Feedback

- What have you heard since we last met?

Neighborhood projects / efforts

- SF Active Communities Plan (SFMTA) – in progress, draft network includes 5th Street bridge
- 101/280 Express Lanes and Bus Project (SFCTA) – in progress
- Mission Bay School Access Plan (SFCTA) – starting
- 900 7th Street (Amazon, former Recology site) – Applications submitted and under review. Requires Conditional Use Authorization and Transportation Demand Management Plan.
- 655 4th Street (The Creamery) Application at commission for approval 12/14 – 1,100 dwelling units, 10K ground floor retail, Plaza

An aerial, grayscale photograph of San Francisco, California, showing the city's dense urban landscape, the Golden Gate Bridge in the distance, and the bay. Overlaid on this image is the title text in a bold, orange font.

Preliminary Business Case Update

(Caltrain - DJ)

Agenda



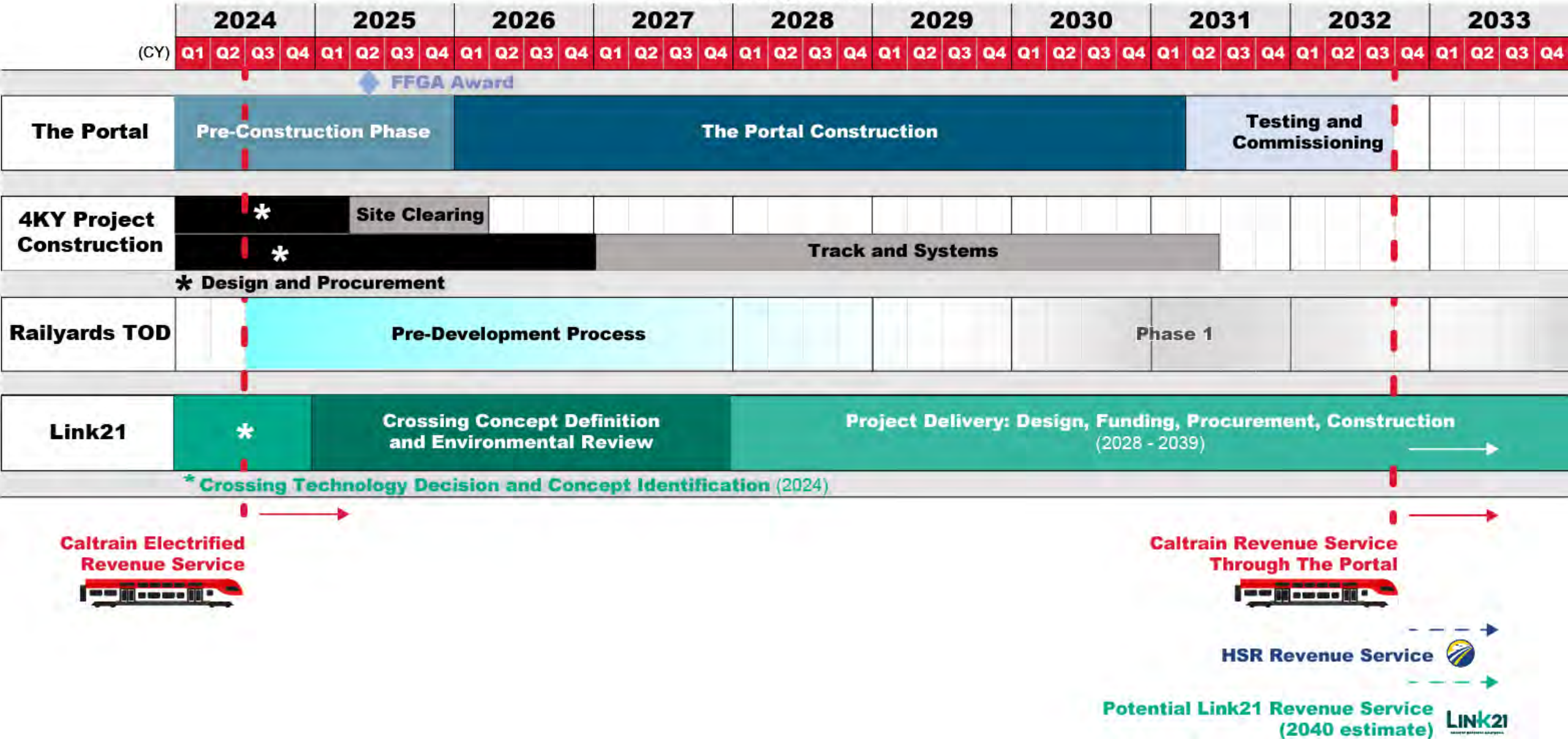
Overview



Operating Requirements
at SF Railyards



Schedule Subject to Agreement with TJPA



SF Railyards – Caltrain's Operating Requirements

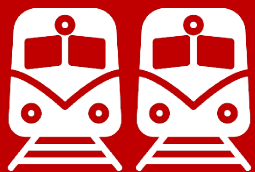
Core Functions in the North End



Passenger Facilities



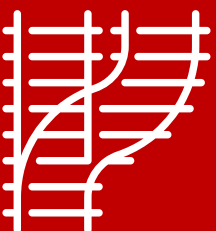
Customer Experience



Space to Store Trains



Space to Service Trains



Space to Turn Trains



Space to Start Trains

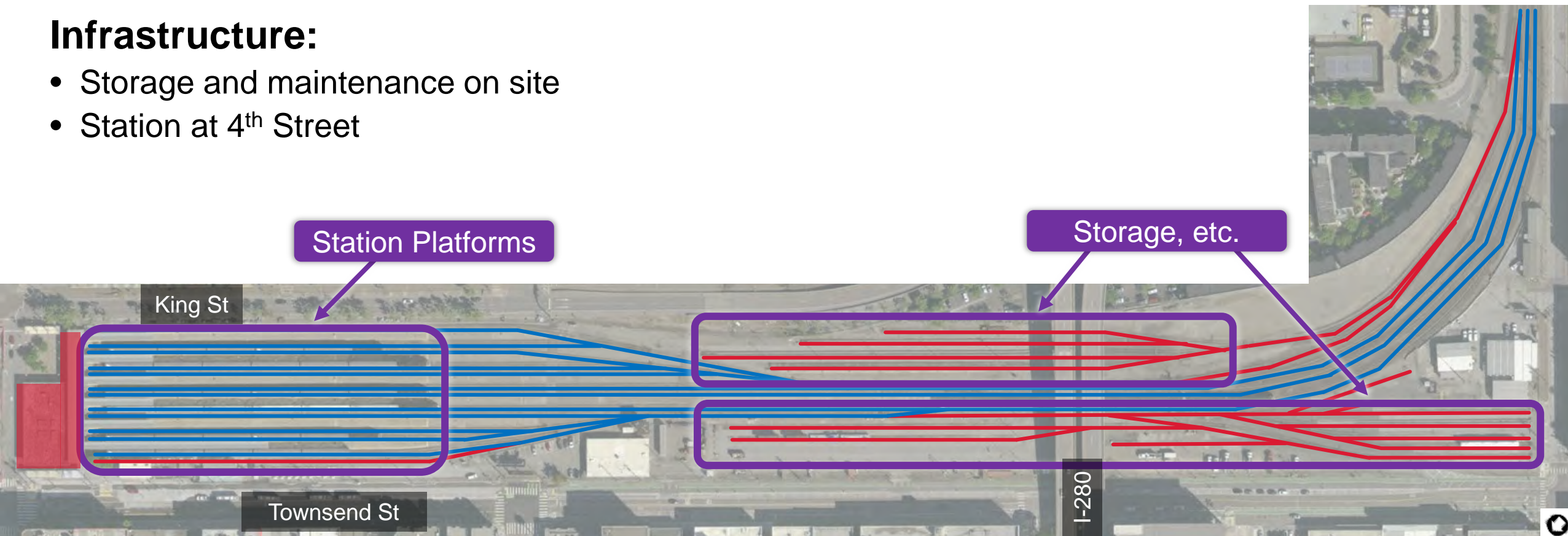


Crew Facilities & Offices

Existing Conditions (All Above Ground)

Infrastructure:

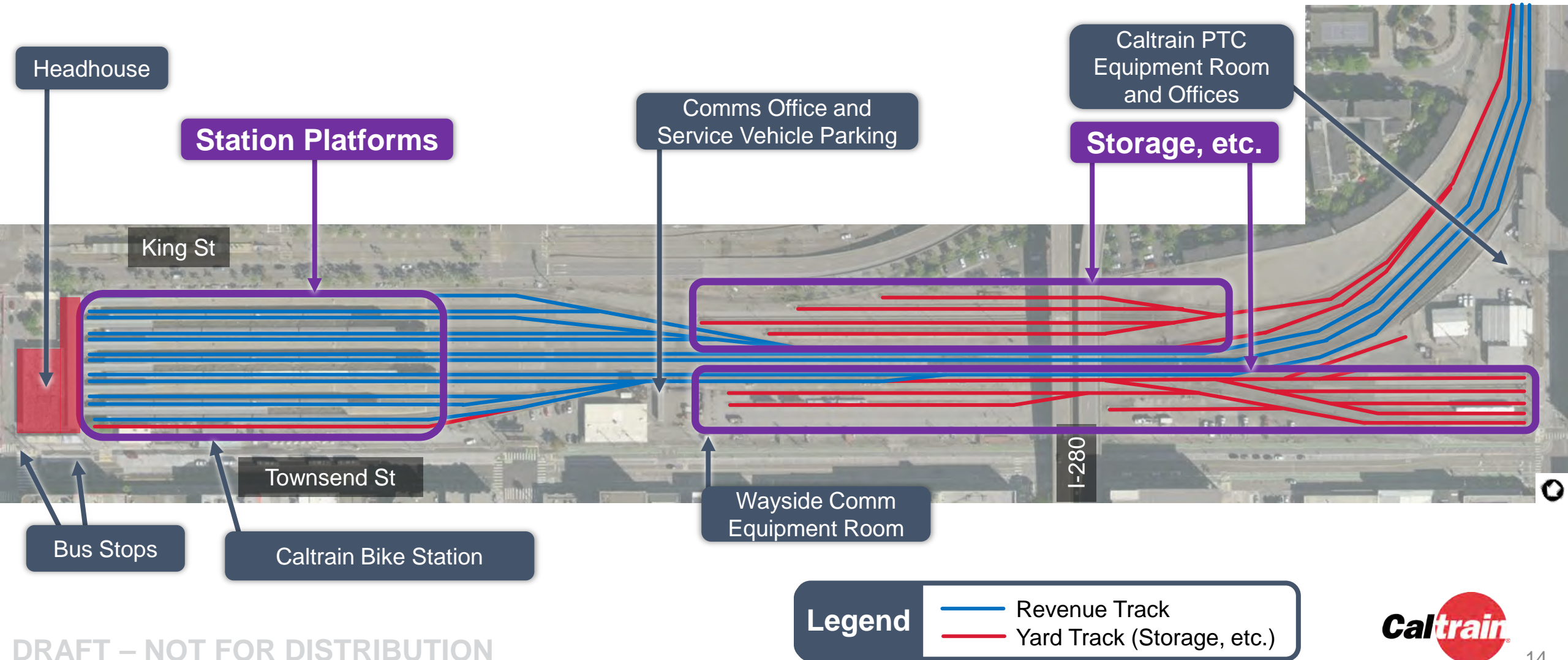
- Storage and maintenance on site
- Station at 4th Street



Legend

- Revenue Track
- Yard Track (Storage, etc.)

On-site Functions



The Adopted Service Vision

Derived from Caltrain's Business Plan

“Caltrain's Long Range Service Vision directs the railroad to plan for substantially expanded rail service that, by 2040, will address the local and regional mobility needs of the corridor while supporting local economic development activities.”



Caltrain's Policy Priorities for the SF Railyards



Meet the Caltrain Adopted Service Vision – Adopted by the Caltrain Board



Maximize economic development opportunity



Support advancement of existing/planned projects: Electrification, Downtown Extension (DTX), CA High Speed Rail (HSR) *(construction sequencing considerations)*



Maintain station point-of-arrival at/or near 4th Street

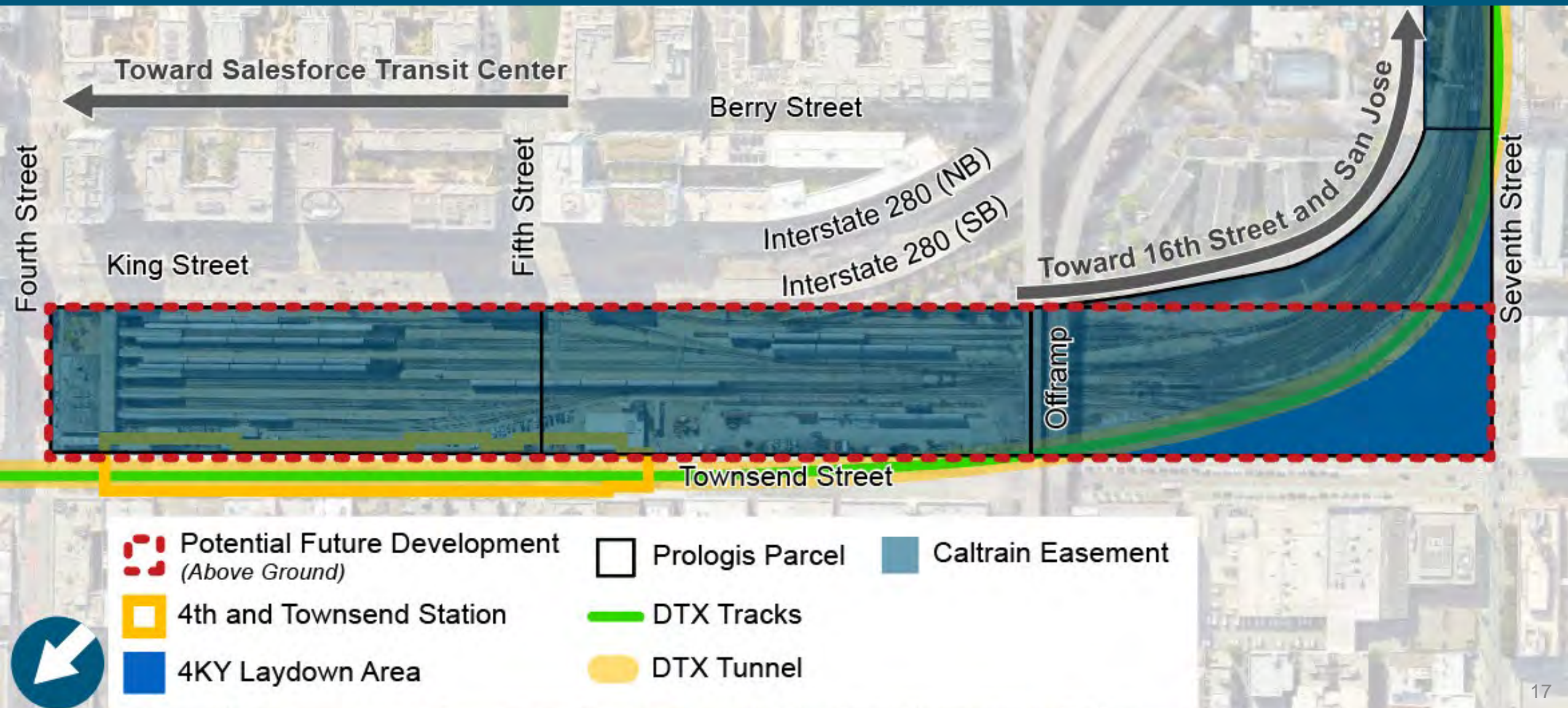


Ensure infrastructure supports Caltrain's current and future rail operations and maintenance needs



Provide exceptional customer service and passenger experience

Competing Space Needs



Overview of SF Rail Projects



Alternatives Development Process

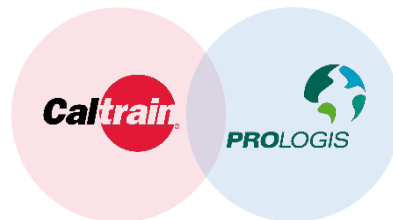
All concepts must:



Meet Caltrain's
operational needs



Enable the potential for feasible
mixed-use development



Questions and Discussion

An aerial, grayscale photograph of San Francisco, California, showing the city's dense urban landscape, the Golden Gate Bridge in the distance, and the surrounding hills. The image is used as a background for the title text.

Neighborhood Mapping + Potential Public Realm Opportunities

(Hugo Errazuriz, AECOM)

Progress Summary

Where we are

- Mapping of existing conditions within and around the study area is completed, including previously planned and proposed activities
- Group site tour #1 (*Thank you everyone for participating and considering!*)
- Gathered input from both mapping and tour and started to identify preliminary areas for improvement and potential solutions

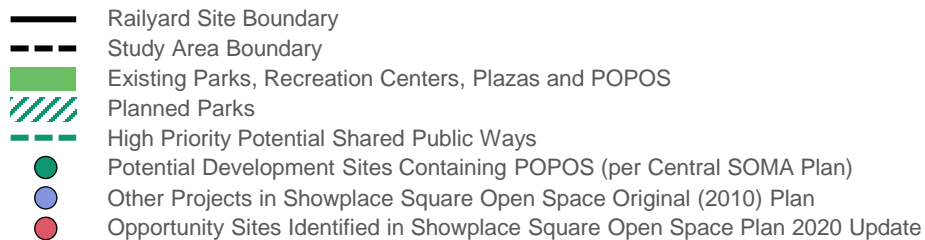
Site Tour



Public Realm Open Space Network

Observations:

- Existing and planned open space concentrates mostly in Mission Bay
- Lack of open space within the study area, but key areas of open space adjacent to it
- Lack of clear connections to/from adjacent open spaces

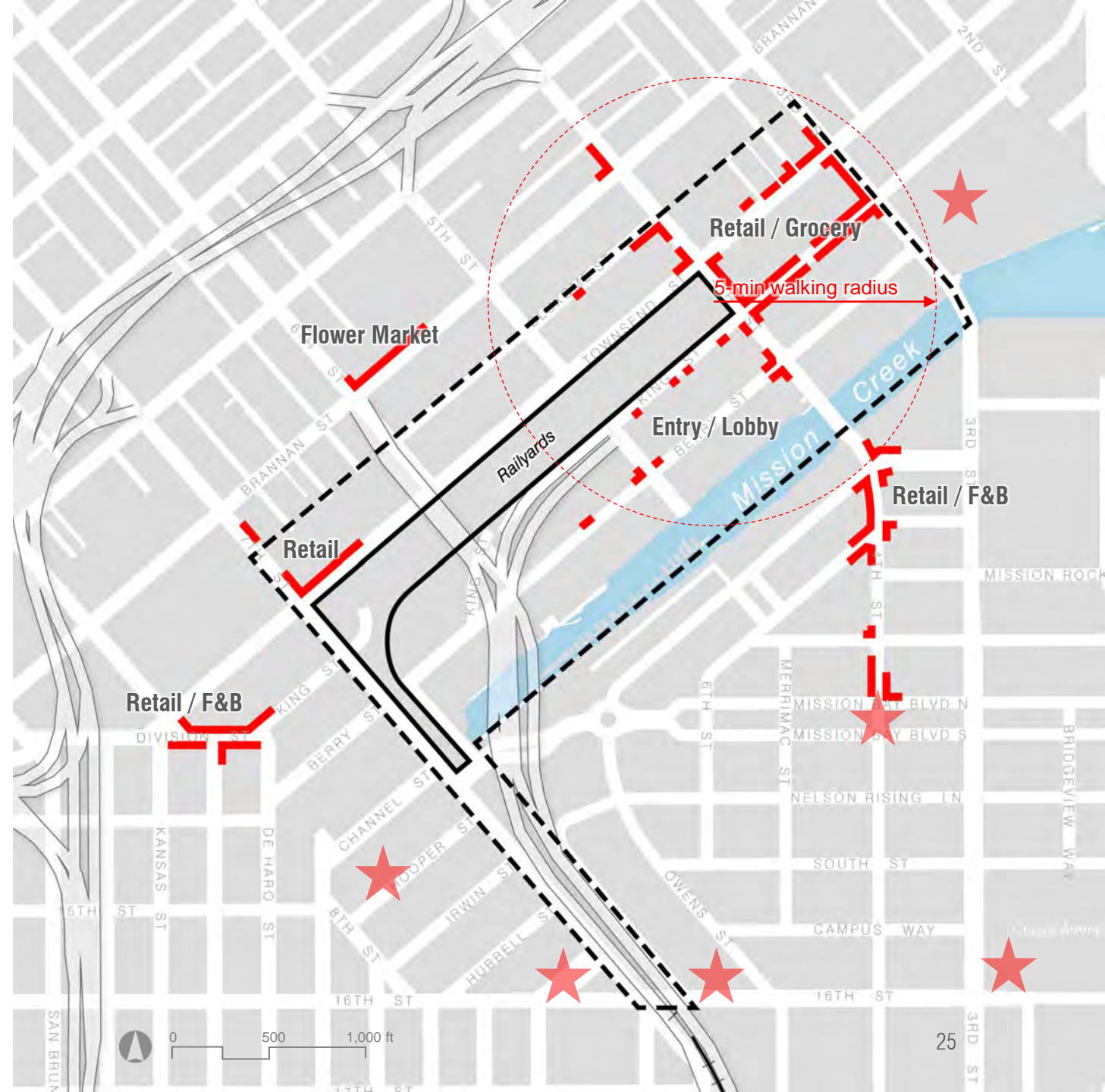


Urban Vitality

Active Ground Floor

Observations:

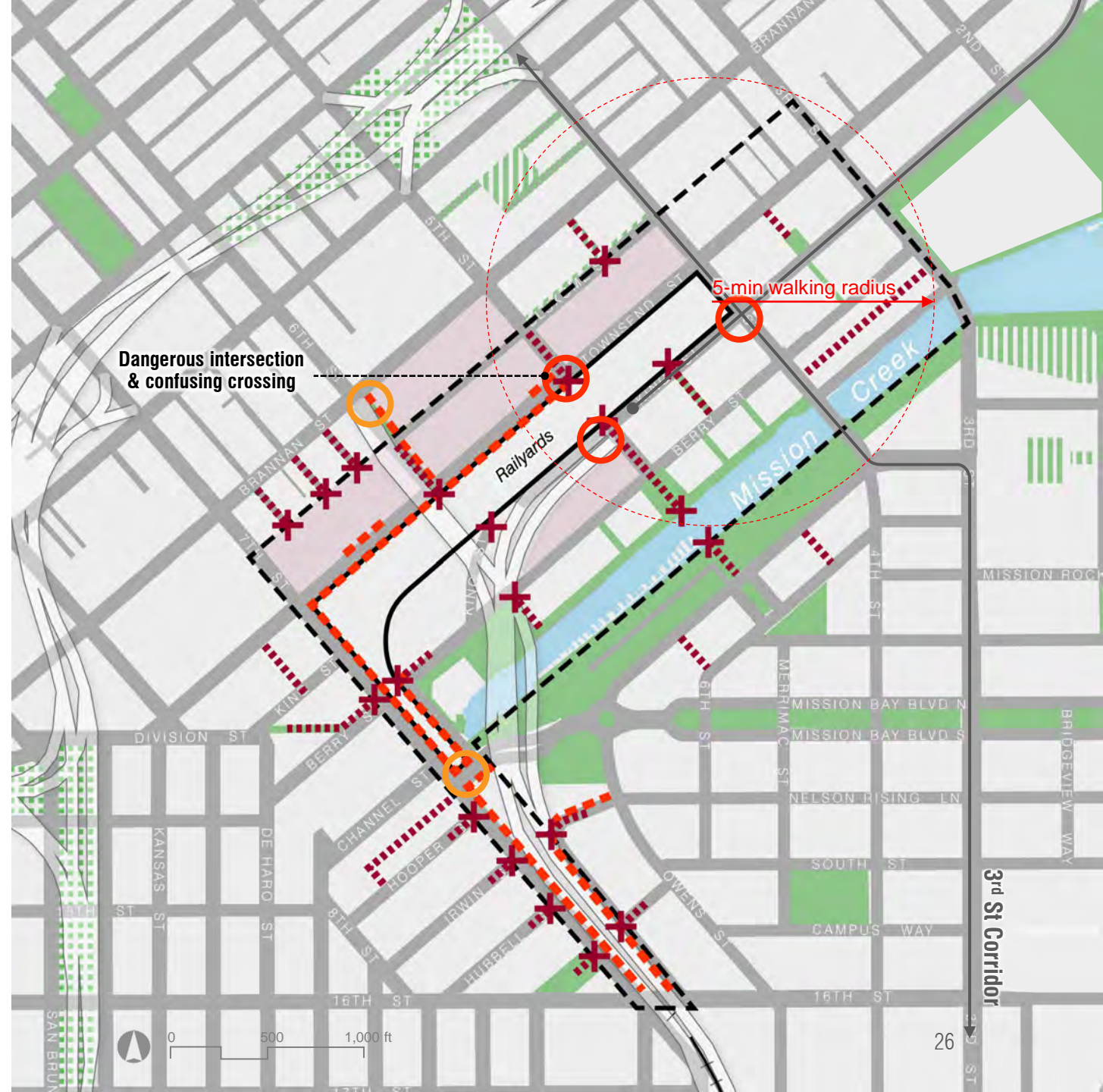
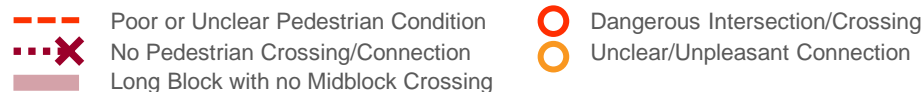
- Limited active ground floor frontage in the study area, except areas between 3rd and 4th St
- Even Mission Bay development along King St has very limited active ground floor use
- Potential to connect/strengthen isolated pockets of activity within the study area



Connections Pedestrian Network

Observations:

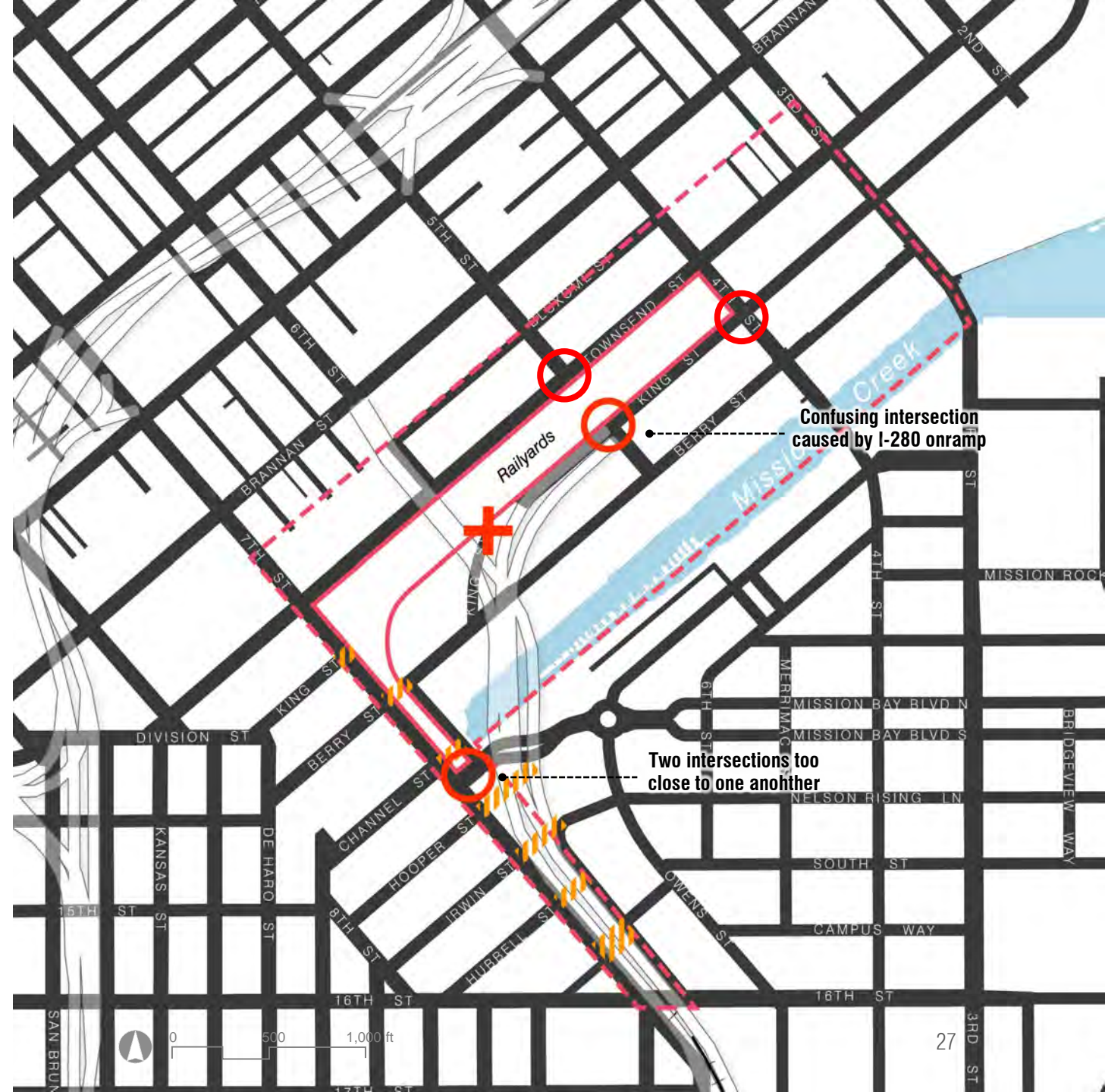
- Disconnected pedestrian path caused by current railyards and Hwy 280 ramps
- Poor and confusing sidewalk conditions along Townsend St, with dangerous intersection at 5th and Townsend
- Unpleasant/unclear connections at 5th and King St, and 7th and Mission Bay Blvd.
- Disconnected path at Mission Creek
- Lack of midblock crossing along blocks



Connections Road Network

Observations:

- Disconnected roads caused by current railyards and Hwy 280
- Confusing intersections at King and 5th, Mission Bay Blvd and 7th
- Dangerous intersection at 5th and Townsend

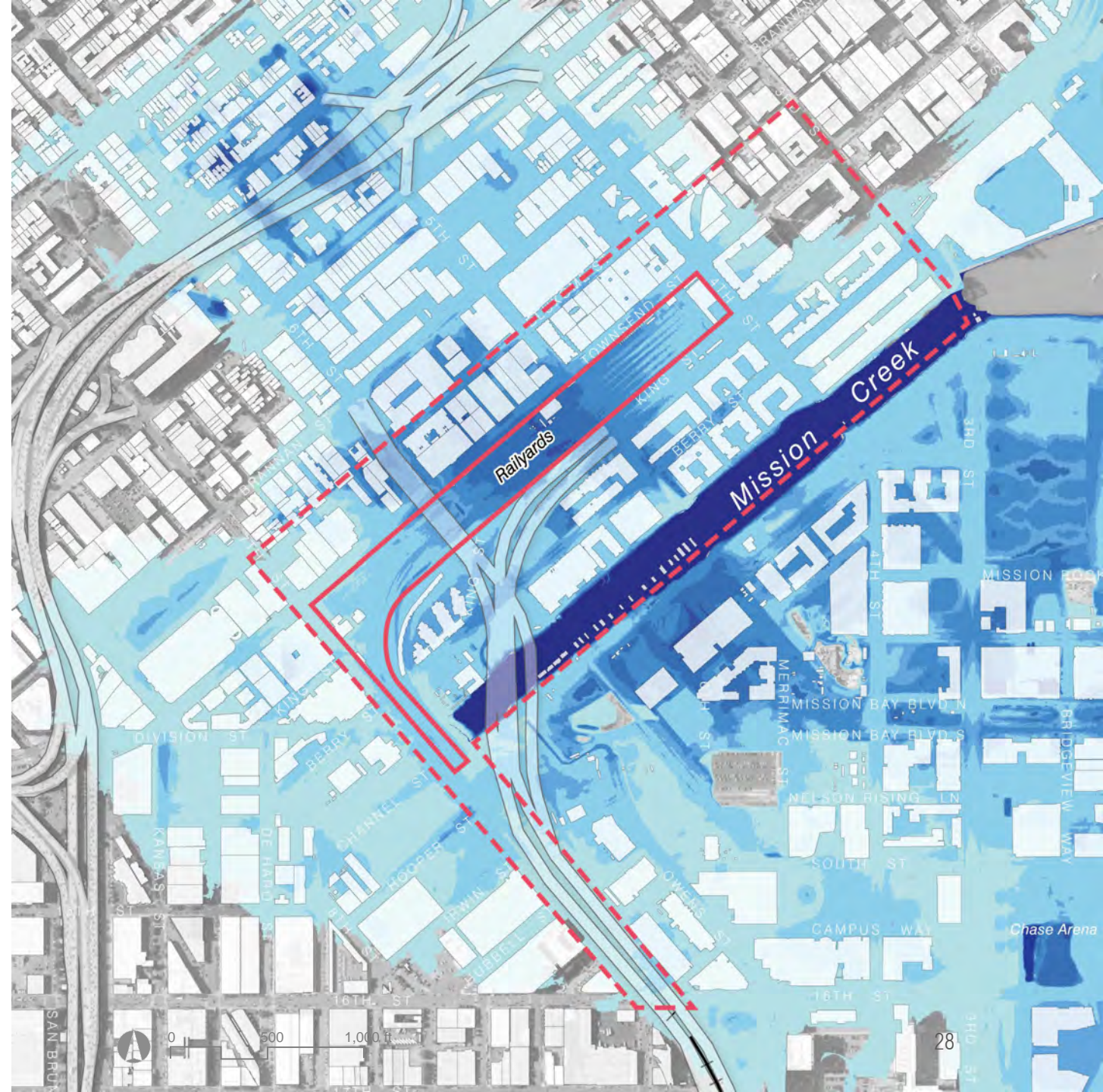
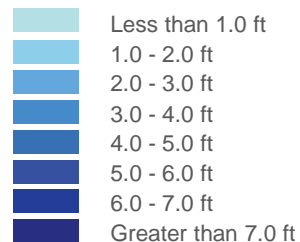


Resilience Sea Level Rise

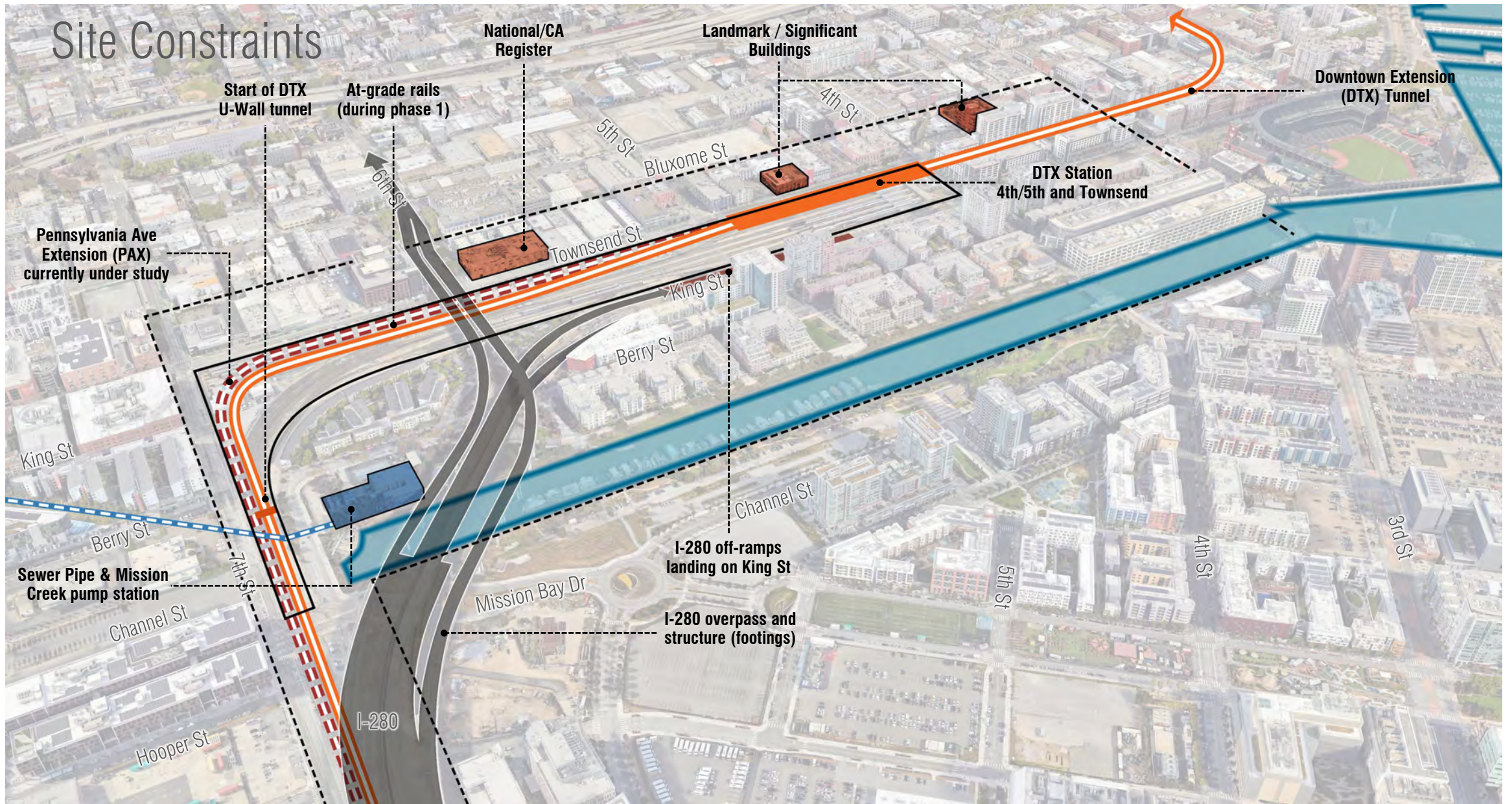
Observations:

- Low areas concentrate in Mission Bay and current railyards site & Townsend St.
- Comprehensive SLR inundation and climate solutions need to be looked at both larger and local scales

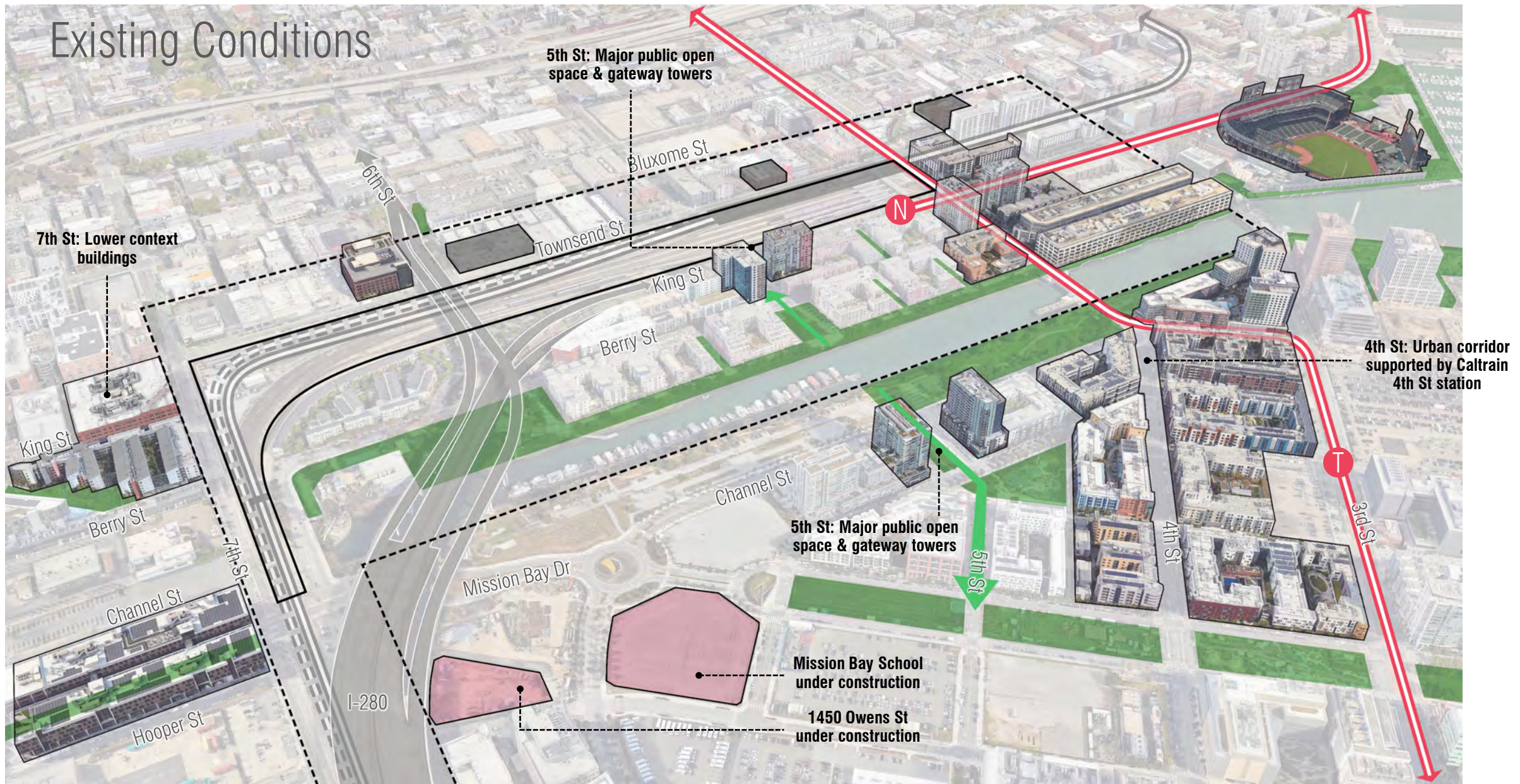
2140 Inundation Level in Feet Under a 66-inch Sea Level Rise Scenario + 100 years Storm Event: Total Water Level of 108 Inches



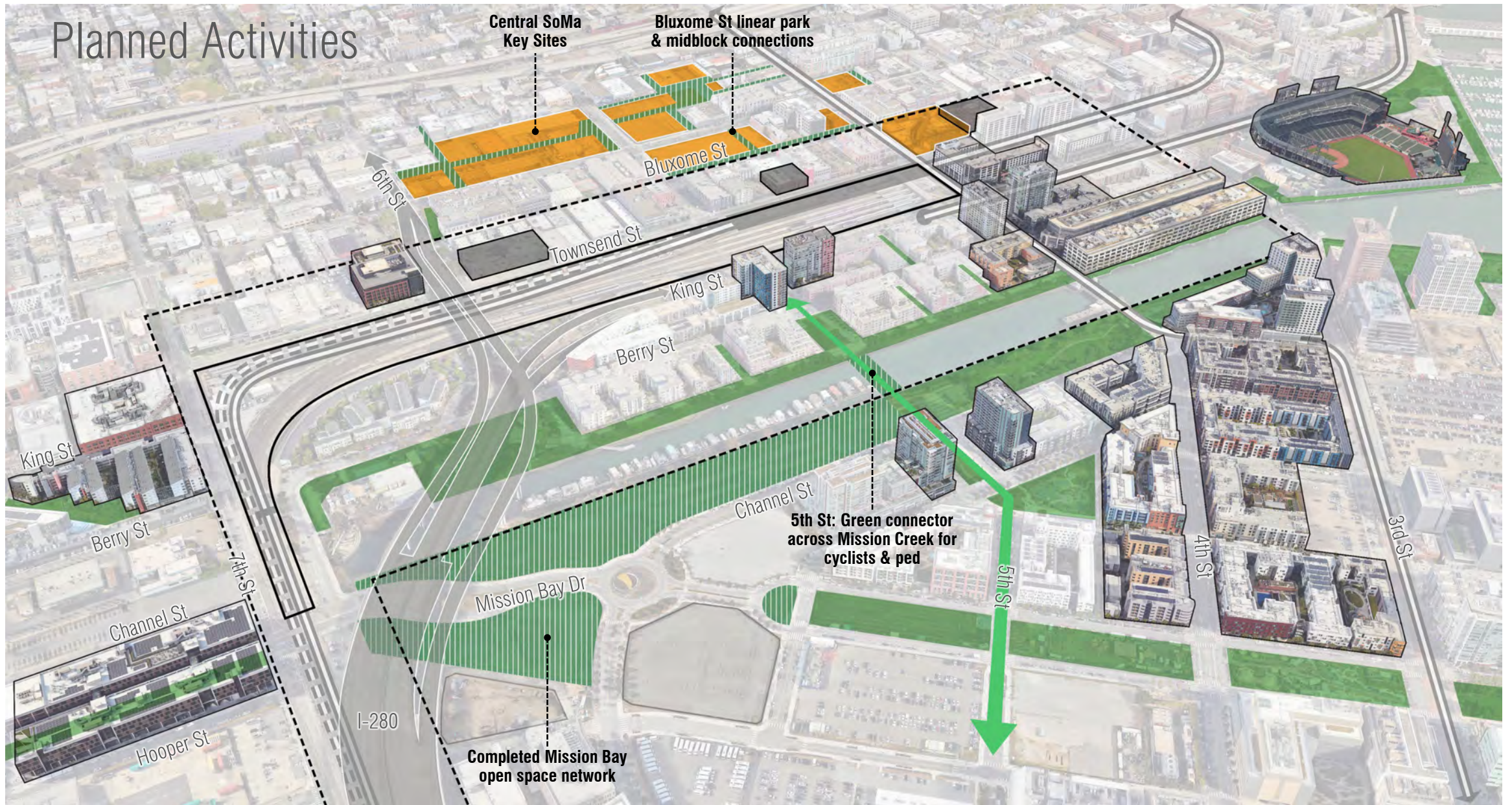
Site Constraints



Existing Conditions

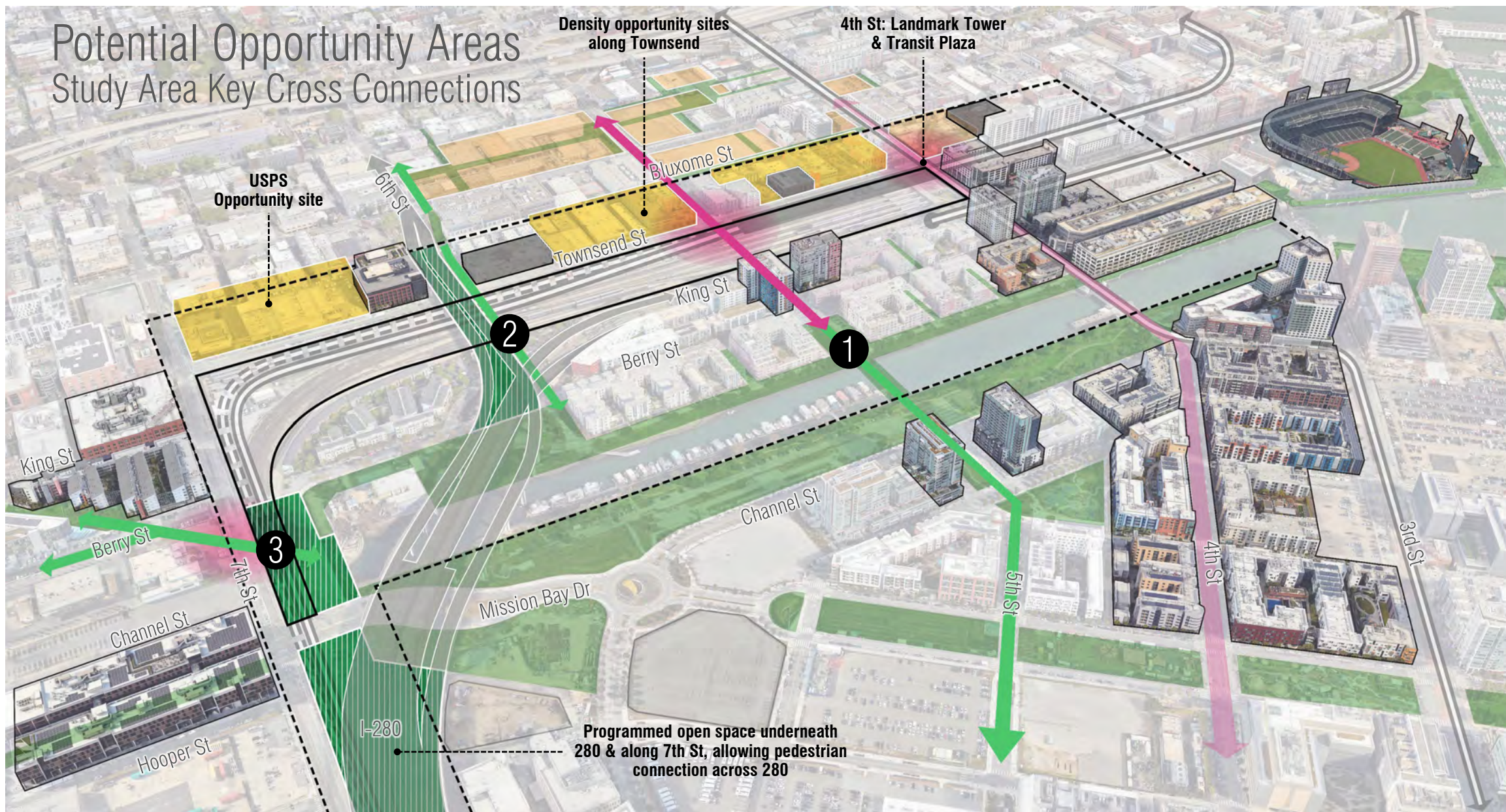


Planned Activities



Potential Opportunity Areas

Study Area Key Cross Connections



Potential Opportunity Areas

Study Area Key Connections

Potential gateway & public realm connection along 5th St (Railyards site Phase 2)

6th St

Townsend St

King St

Berry St

Channel St

Mission Bay Dr

I-280

7th St

5th St

4th St

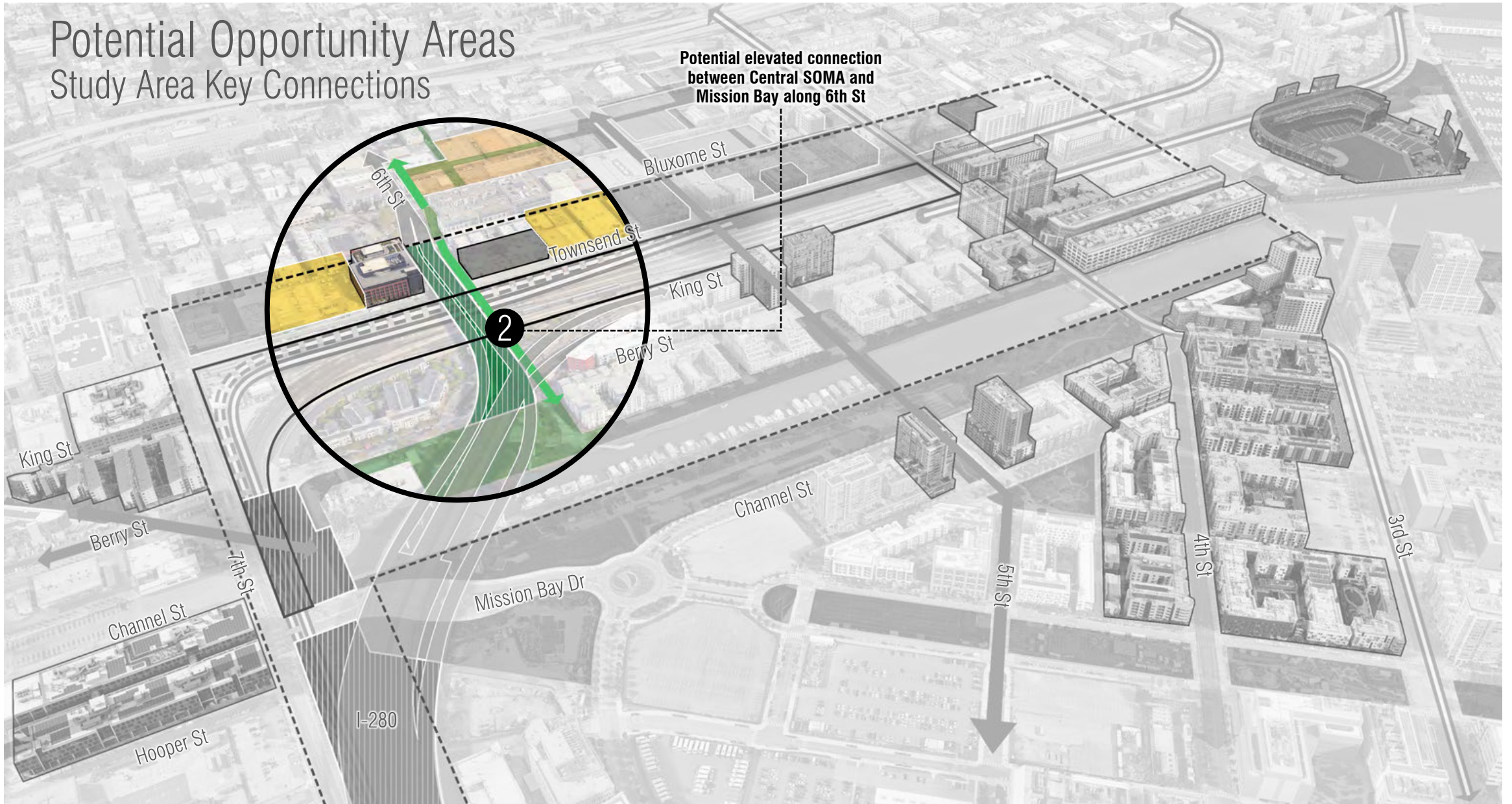
3rd St

1

Potential Opportunity Areas

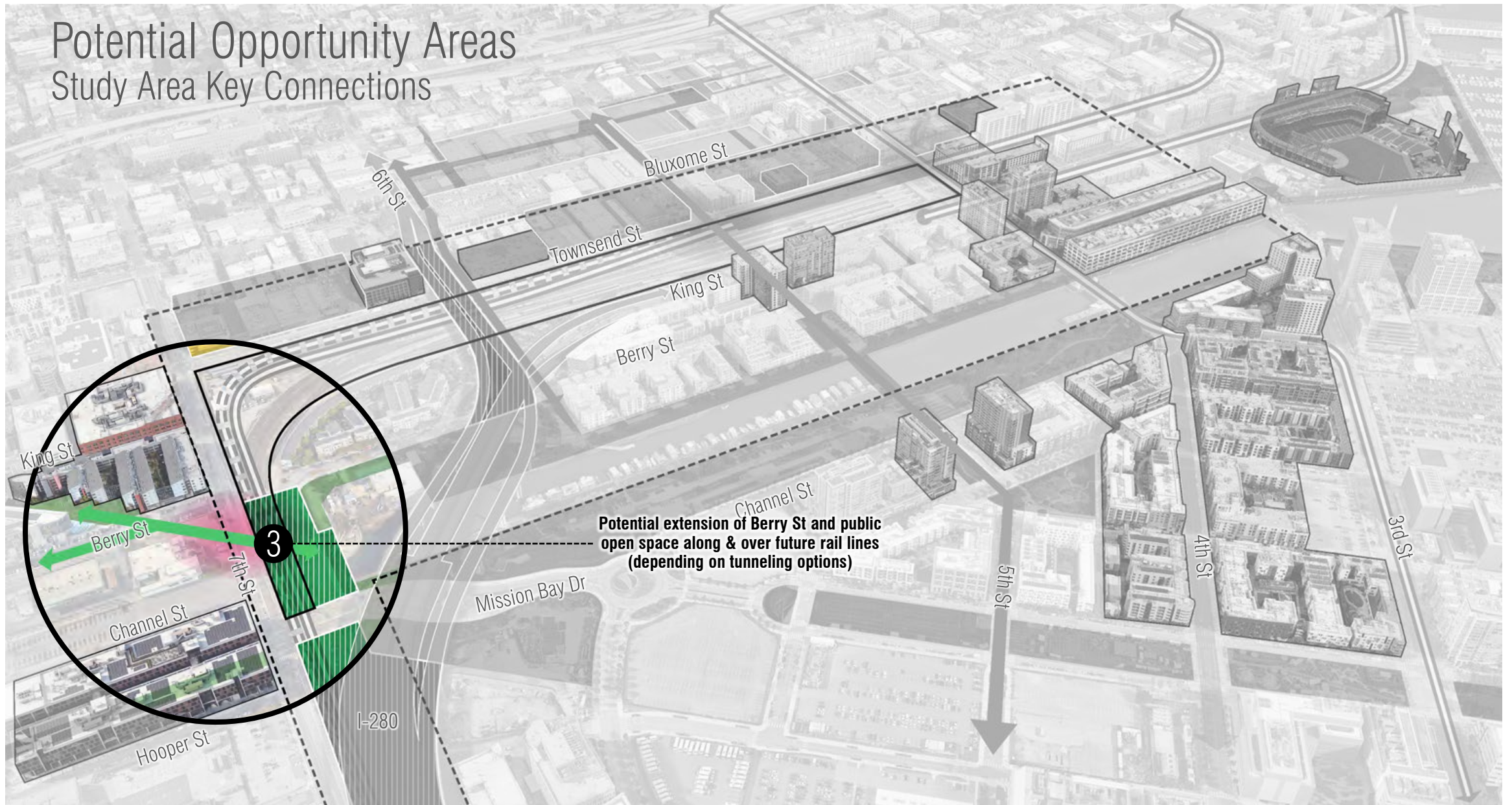
Study Area Key Connections

Potential elevated connection
between Central SOMA and
Mission Bay along 6th St



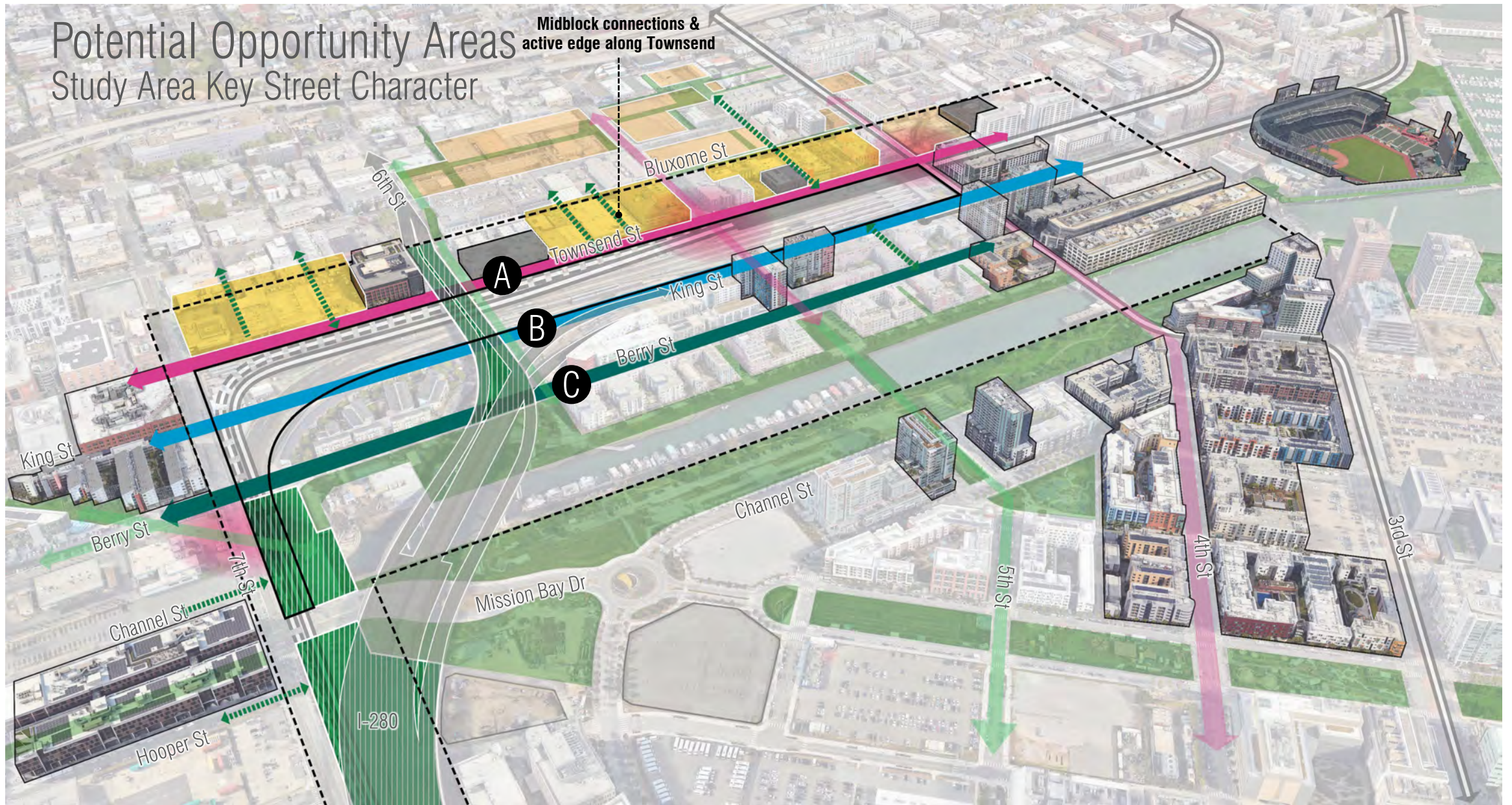
Potential Opportunity Areas

Study Area Key Connections

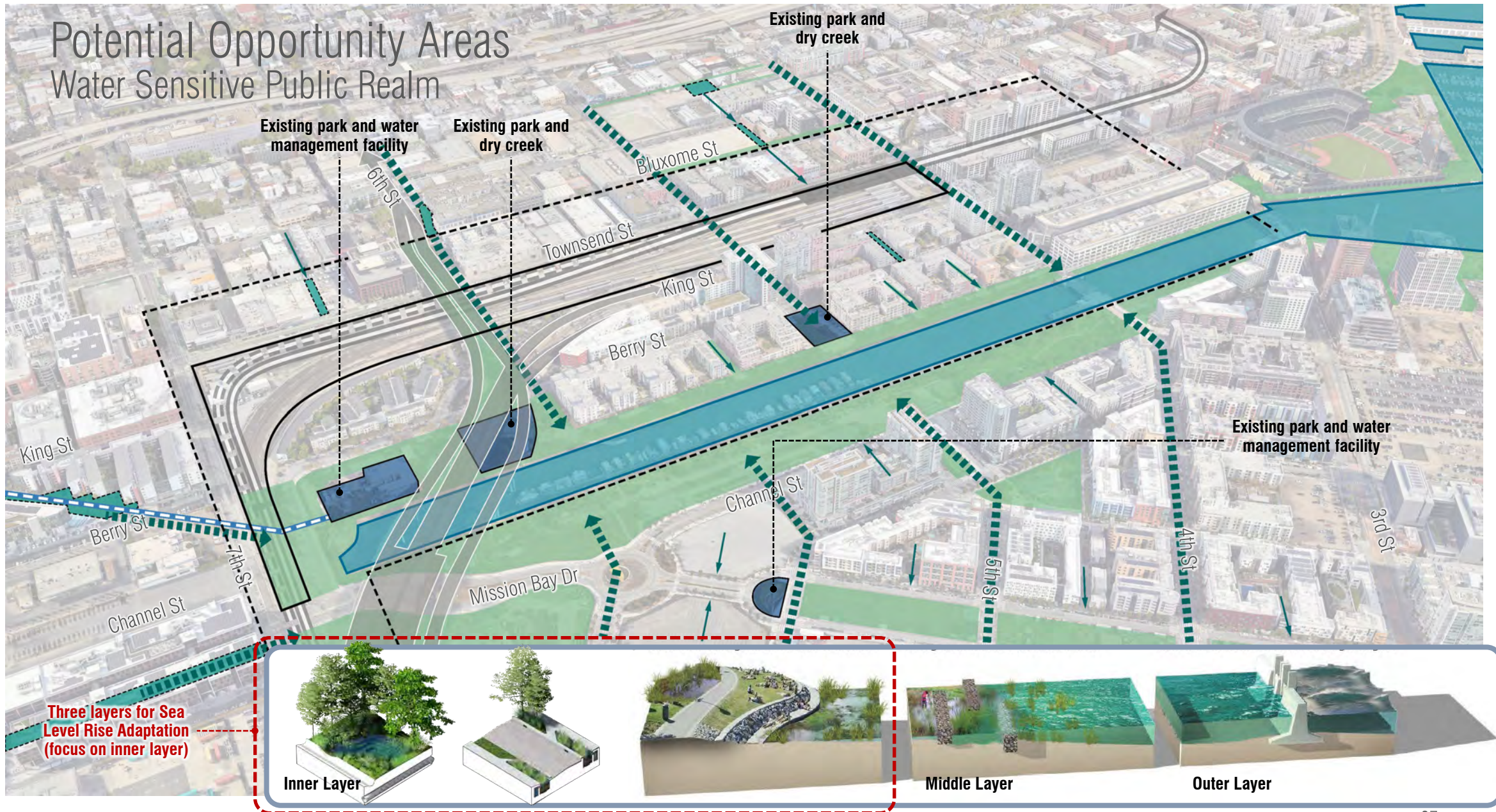


Potential Opportunity Areas

Study Area Key Street Character



Potential Opportunity Areas Water Sensitive Public Realm



Potential Opportunity Areas

Water Sensitive Public Realm



Open Discussion

- Are these the right findings that could help inform a comprehensive neighborhood plan?
- What is missing? What has not been considered?
- Are there any key areas or connections that you would like to see incorporated here?
- Are there any cases or benchmarks from which to draw lessons learned to be applied here?

An aerial, grayscale photograph of San Francisco, California. The image shows the city's dense urban landscape, including the San Francisco skyline with prominent skyscrapers like the Transamerica Pyramid on the left. The Golden Gate Bridge is visible in the distance, spanning the Golden Gate Strait. The city's layout, with its steep hills and winding streets, is clearly visible. Overlaid on the center of the image is the title 'Context "Dashboard" Update' in a large, bold, orange font, and below it, the subtitle '(Erika Uribe, uncommon)' in a smaller, gray font.

Context "Dashboard" Update

(Erika Uribe, uncommon)

Integration of group input

Public Participation Framework

Updates

- Project scope clarification
- Incorporated comments (see track changes)

Future updates

- Schedule

Context “dashboard”

What is it?

- Interpreting RWG request to develop an *"executive summary of executive summaries"* of previous neighborhood planning efforts.
- A tool to review previous planning policy documents and community input **in relation to/ in the context of** new City policy (i.e., EJ Framework), and RWG emerging themes.

Context dashboard

See link here: [Context dashboard](#)



Planning context dashboard


FileEditViewInsertFormatDataToolsHelp

100%Calibri11

Σ

Share

A5Community plans and map identifying corresponding neighborhoods or communities.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	About the context dashboard															
2	This dashboard responds to a Railyards Working Group request to to develop an "executive summary of executive summaries" of previous neighborhood planning efforts. It is a tool to review planning policy documents and community input in relation to/ in the context of new City policy (i.e., EJ Framework), and RWG emerging themes.															
3	The columns below correspond with the document tabs at the bottom of the application window.															
4	about	dashboard	Plans	RWG emerging themes	EJ priorities											
5	Community plans and map identifying corresponding neighborhoods or communities.	Analysis of Community Plans. Each line or record represents an objective or measure extract from a specific plan, and is matched to themes that emerged from the RWG meetings. Additionally, Environmental Justice priorities are identified that correspond with that measure or objective.	Brief description of neighborhood plans, including links and details on analysis.	Themes that have emerged from the Railyard Working Group meetings.	Priorities from the Environmental Justice Framework created to guide city policy objectives. EJ policies are required by the State, and have been integrated through the General Plan. See link below for further information.											
6					https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/introduction.htm#:~:text=Environmental%20Justice%20policies,other%20health%20risks											
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about

dashboard

Plans

RWG emerging themes

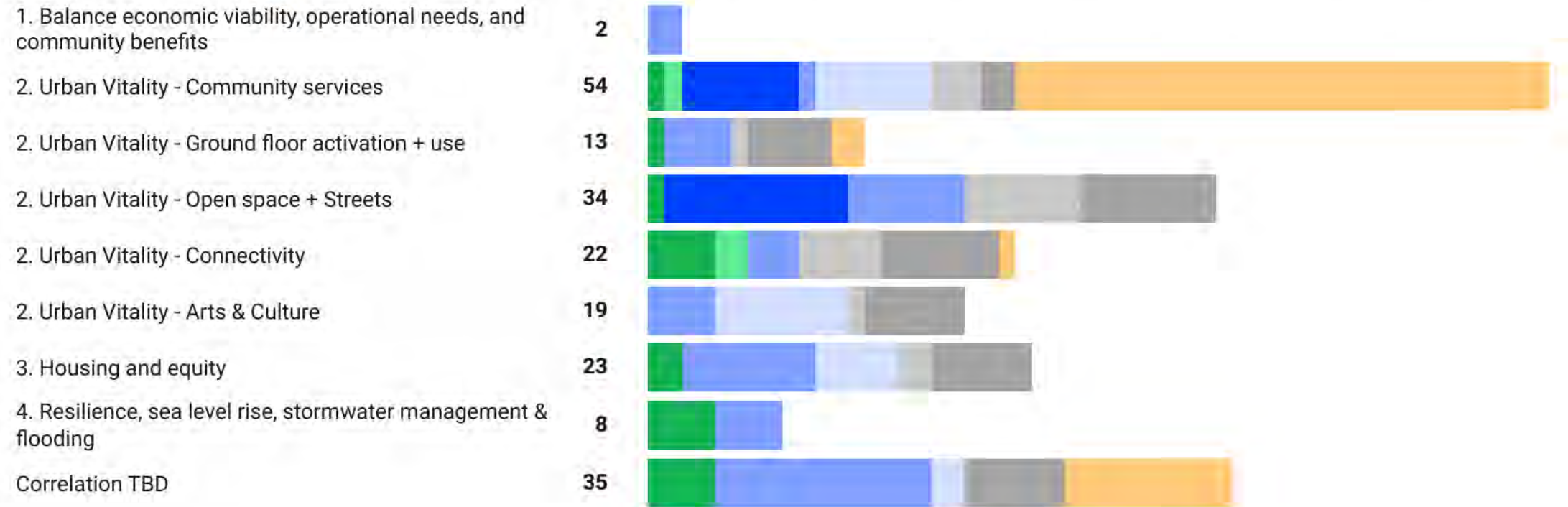
EJ priorities

1:58 PM12/6/2023

Context dashboard

RWG Emerging Themes

■ Mission Rock Development Agreement Fact Sheet ■ Rail Alignment and Benefits (RAB) Study (SF Planning, 2018) ■ Western SoMa Area Plan
■ Central SoMa (South of Market) Area Plan ■ SoMa pilipinas CHHESS ■ Showplace Square Open Space Plan (2021 update) ■ Showplace
Square/Potrero Area Plan ■ Southeast Framework: Community Facilities



Created with Datawrapper

Context dashboard

Guiding questions for asynchronous review

- *Is this level of detail helpful?*
- *Are there other policy or community context efforts that should be included?*
- *We will continue to refine the dashboard for completeness and consistency, do you have any suggestions on improvements?*

Please feel welcome to comment directly on the spreadsheet shared or e-mail.

An aerial, grayscale photograph of San Francisco, California. The image shows the city's dense urban landscape, including the San Francisco skyline with prominent skyscrapers like the Transamerica Pyramid on the left. The city extends to the waterfront, where the San Francisco Bay is visible. The Golden Gate Bridge is seen in the distance, spanning the water. In the foreground, a major thoroughfare with multiple lanes and a central transit corridor with tracks runs through the city. The text "Next Steps" is overlaid in a large, orange, sans-serif font, and "(All)" is overlaid in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.

Next Steps

(All)

Next Steps

- RWG Coordinators support.
- RWG opportunities to meet in person.
- RWG should review the Context Dashboard
 - Documents are posted to the collaboration space
 - Please review and comment
- 2024 Q1 Project team
 - Follow up with the CAC's
 - Public Realm Strategies Toolkit
 - Begin to identify and study capacity of proximate opportunity sites
 - Coordination with The Portal (DTX), PAX and the 6th Street Sewer Project
 - Communicating Complexity of the Site and Infrastructure

Thank You

sfplanning.org/railyards

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